

# The Turquoise Coast

SAIL BY PRIVATE GULET FROM EPHESUS TO ANTALYA, WITH HIKES TO HIDDEN RUINS



## TRIP DATES

### 2025

May 21-June 3, 2025 Westbound

June 4-17, 2025 Eastbound

August 25-September 7, 2025 Westbound

September 10-23, 2025 Eastbound

September 18-October 1, 2025 Eastbound

September 24-October 7, 2025 Westbound

October 1-14, 2025 Eastbound

### 2026

May 20-June 2, 2026 Westbound

June 3-16, 2026 Eastbound

August 26-September 8, 2026 Eastbound

September 9-22, 2026 Westbound

September 16-29, 2026 Westbound

September 23-October 6, 2026 Eastbound

October 7-20, 2026 Eastbound



Wilderness Travel

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## The Turquoise Coast

SAIL BY PRIVATE GULET FROM EPHESUS TO ANTALYA, WITH  
HIKES TO HIDDEN RUINS

Sun-drenched skies, a warm, translucent sea, a dream world of astounding Greek, Byzantine, and Roman treasures, fantastic meals served on deck, a small group (maximum 11!), and expert Trip Leaders—these are the delights of our Turquoise Coast journey. Traveling cove to cove by traditional gulet (wooden motor-sailing yacht) is an absolute treat and the best way to get away from the crowds. As we explore, we'll hike to spectacular Lycian rock tombs and fascinating ruins accessible only on foot or by boat, stroll the lanes of magnificent Ephesus, enjoy lunch with a family in a village, and savor on-board cuisine that's beyond fabulous. Don't miss this trip—it is one of the most delicious, fascinating, and relaxing vacations you can possibly have!



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# Itinerary

## EASTBOUND ITINERARY

### DAY 1

#### ISTANBUL

Upon arrival in Istanbul, you will be met and transferred to the hotel (please plan to arrive in Istanbul by 1:30 pm). The one-hour drive brings us to our hotel located in The Old City, or Stamboul as it is sometimes known. This is the heart of the Ottoman and Byzantine worlds and a great district to explore on foot. Many of its most famous sights are within easy walking distance of one another. After checking into our hotel, we set out to explore the restored Basilica Cistern, an underground chamber built by Justinian in AD 532 for storing the imperial water supply. We descend into the cistern and walk along platforms above reflecting pools, where soft lighting illuminates the hundreds of carved Doric, Ionian, and Corinthian columns that support the cistern roof. Heading to the Hippodrome, the center of life in Istanbul for more than 1,400 years, we can easily imagine the political intrigues that took place here as chariot teams vied for victory while racing around the rectangular arena (the various teams had political ties). We also visit Sultan Ahmet Camii, or the Blue Mosque, with slender minarets visible for miles around. It is known as the Blue Mosque for its blue-themed interior, replete with panels of floral-motif tiles (20,000 of them) and graceful arabesque stenciling. We'll walk to the Golden Horn to start our late afternoon sunset cruise on a private boat along the European and Asiatic shores of the Bosphorus to see yalis (waterside mansions) and the classic silhouette of Istanbul's skyline, then stop in for our Welcome Dinner in a seafood restaurant along the Bosphorus waterfront. Overnight at Hotel Levni in the heart of Istanbul's fascinating walking district...D  
Please note: in case of inclement weather, the cruise will be moved to Day 2.

### DAY 2

#### ISTANBUL

Our guided morning and afternoon explorations in Istanbul include the magnificent Hagia Sophia, once the largest enclosed space in the world and the greatest church in Christendom. Set atop a hill, the domed basilica of this 6th century cathedral, the Church of Holy Wisdom, was the dominant feature of the city's skyline until the 16th century. Memhet the Conqueror converted the Hagia Sophia into a mosque following the conquest of Constantinople in 1453, and Ataturk converted it into a museum in 1935. It has now been converted back to a Mosque; please be advised entry is not allowed for anyone with bare shoulders or shorts. We also visit the Topkapi Palace, heart of the Ottoman Empire and home of the sultans for four centuries. The palace, a marvelous imperial labyrinth set on the tip of a peninsula where the Golden Horn joins the Bosphorus, was originally constructed in the 15th century, but most of the buildings we see today date from the 18th century. Of particular fascination is the Harem, the set of "forbidden" apartments where the Sultan's wives, concubines, and eunuchs lived. Topkapi is also the place to feast your eyes on the fabulous treasures of the sultans, from jewel-encrusted daggers to golden caskets to the 86-carat Spoonmakers Diamond. After lunch, we



### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	14 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Istanbul, Turkey
<b>Depart:</b>	Istanbul, Turkey
<b>Lodging:</b>	9 nights aboard yacht (single cabins available), 4 nights first-class hotels
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Archaeology, Cultural Adventures, Sea Kayaking, Small Boat and Yacht Cruising, Snorkeling, Walking
<b>Trip Level:</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 6 days easy to moderate optional day hikes, 1-4 hours, some steep sections

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy special explorations in Istanbul, including a private sunset cruise on the Bosphorus
- Sail and hike to hidden Greek and Roman ruins accessible only by boat and foot, including swimming past underwater ruins!
- Explore unforgettable Ephesus, capital of Roman Asia, on a private walking tour
- Savor bountiful meals prepared by our talented on-board chefs and served al fresco
- Join our pre- or post-trip extensions to Cappadocia or Istanbul

# Itinerary (Eastbound cont'd)

stroll the labyrinthine alleyways of the Grand Bazaar and Covered Bazaar, the oldest and most famous markets in the world. We can watch artisans at work, peek through doorways to spy hidden treasures, and maybe try our hand at bargaining for a souvenir. Overnight at hotel...BLD



*“Extraordinary. An exceptional two weeks rich in natural beauty, history, culture, hiking, and great companions. I may never travel without WT again.”*

*Sarah B., Palo Alto, CA*

Please note that the sites we visit in Istanbul can be very busy at times. Because of this we have a flexible approach so we can deliver the best experience possible by adjusting the order of the visits on Days 1 and 2. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to embrace a spirit of adventure during your trip to Istanbul and Turkey.

## DAY 3

### SELÇUK / EPHEBUS

We fly to Izmir and drive to the town of Selçuk, our starting point for exploring fabulous Ephesus. Our first stop is at the impressive Ephesus Museum, where treasures of unearthed artifacts, marble statuary, and gladiatorial pieces are displayed. The statue of Artemis (Cybele), the mother

goddess and principal deity of the city, is especially noteworthy. Following lunch in Selçuk, we'll explore Ephesus, declared capital of Roman Asia by Emperor Augustus, who turned it into a major trading and banking metropolis. In this remarkably well-preserved Roman city, where St. Paul preached, we walk among finely restored theaters and homes, stroll the marble-paved Arcadian way, and feel transported back to Roman times. The city's magnificently restored ruins include a library, temples, agoras, baths, brothels, marble streets, and amphitheaters. Under Roman rule, Ephesus allowed religious freedom for its inhabitants, and the result was a wonderful mixture of cultures. Our walking tour brings us an unforgettable glimpse into the world of ancient Rome. While in Ephesus, we also visit the Terrace Houses. These recently excavated houses where wealthy Romans lived offer a fascinating insight to the daily lives of their inhabitants as we walk through frescoed rooms and kitchens, private baths, and atriums. Upon exiting Ephesus, we head to the nearby site of the great Temple of Artemis, the largest Greek temple ever built. It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, but only one column now remains of the original temple. Overnight at our seaside hotel in Kusadasi, set on a peninsula overlooking the Aegean...BLD

## DAY 4

### KUSADASI / EKINCIK / EMBARK

In the morning, you have the option to visit a weaving cooperative for a entertaining, hands-on, and educational demonstration of the local art (with options to shop, of course!). Those who may not be interested in weavings can take a short drive into the forested hills above Ephesus to visit the House of the Virgin Mary, a Christian shrine believed to be Mary's final dwelling. We then head to the harbor of Ekincik to board our traditional wooden gulet, meet our captain and crew, and enjoy the first of many unforgettable meals aboard our

boat. We may sail to a nearby cove where we can enjoy a swim before dinner. Overnight on board...BLD

#### DAY 5 DALYAN / KAUNOS

We drive to Dalyan and head out on a wonderful river boat excursion to see the beautiful Carian rock tombs built into the slopes above the village, then travel through the reedy inlets of the Dalyan River to visit Kaunos, an ancient harbor city with Greek temples, Roman baths, and a Byzantine church. We'll also visit a local open-air mud bath and spa, and then our river boat takes us to a freshwater lake for a quick swim. After a riverside lunch with a beautiful view, those who wish can take an optional hike through the pine forest and olive groves with some steep uphill and downhill sections (average duration is 3 hours). Those who prefer to return to our gulet can do so by river boat. Afterwards, we set out to a remote cove for overnight on board...BLD

#### DAY 6 AG LIMANI / BATIK HAMAM

We cruise this morning to a beautiful cove called Ag Limani ("Harbor of Nets") with time for a swim before our hike across a peninsula marked by the hidden ruins of Lydae, accessible only on foot. En route we may encounter a clan of Yoruk nomads and join them over some sage tea at their homestead. At the end of the hike, we descend to our gulet, which has come around to pick us up in Gocek Bay. Depending on the route, this hike takes 3-4 hours. Time permitting, in the afternoon, we are free to swim in the pretty setting of Batik Hamam ("Sunken Bath" in Turkish), a sheltered cove with a half-sunken ruin known as Cleopatra's Sunken Baths. This is a favored section of the coast for sailing and if we have good winds, we will raise our sails and glide to a wilderness cove anchorage for the night. Overnight in a cove in Gocek Bay... BLD

#### DAY 7 GEMILER ISLAND / KAYA KOY

Our gulet brings us to Gemiler Island, where we head ashore for a short hike up to the striking Byzantine ruins of a 4th century monastic society dedicated to St. Nicholas and tucked amid olive trees. A one-hour hike brings us to the hilltop monastery where there are wonderful views down to the cobalt-blue lagoon below. If it's not too crowded with party boats, we have time for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking along the island before lunch. In the afternoon, we drive to Kaya Koy, an abandoned village that was originally home to around 3,000 Anatolian Greeks. The spoils of war and the "population exchanges" of the 1920s gave the inhabitants





# Itinerary (Eastbound cont'd)



“It was a perfect trip - the organization, timing, food, accommodations, and especially the itinerary. Informative and great fun. I could not have asked for more.”

*Joan and George S., Margate, NJ*

no choice but to relocate to mainland Greece. The site was reduced to an eerie ghost town following the mass exodus. After exploring the ruins, we may hike back to our yacht, anchored in secluded Soguk Cove. The 1.5-hour hike has some steep sections but is a very enjoyable outing with views of a fantastic seascape. Another option is to drive back to the boat so we can find a quiet cove for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. Overnight on board...BLD  
Hiking Details: 1.5 hours

## DAY 8

### KALKAN / XANTHOS / PATARA / BEZIRGAN / KAS

With an early departure, we skirt the Seven Capes and sail on to Firnaz Cove in Kalkan, a quaint town of traditional white-washed houses perched on a hill. Narrow winding streets lined with shops lead down to the harbor where we anchor close off shore. From here we continue on to Xanthos, ancient capital of Lycia, virtually intact when British explorers arrived in 1838. Unfortunately, the British carted away many of the artifacts of Xanthos, now displayed at the British Museum. We explore the unique “Inscribed Pillar” with 250 lines of Lycian script, a language that stills remains mostly undeciphered. Two impressive pillar-tombs tower above the upper seats of the Xanthos theater. The Harpy Tomb got its name from reliefs of the winged figures around the top, which were originally thought to be harpies, female figures from Greek mythology who stole the daughters of King Pandareus to make them slaves of the Furies. Scholars now believe they are depictions of Sirens carrying away the souls of the dead to Hades. The other tomb, once bearing 6th century BC reliefs of wrestlers on a slab, confusingly also supports a 3rd century BC sarcophagus on its top, attesting to being re-used. The remains of an agora, basilica, monastery, and some Byzantine walls are also at this site. We drive to Patara, birthplace of St. Nicholas, famous for its long, isolated, sandy beach. We have some free time here for a delightful swim, or to explore the fine ruins of



a Greco-Roman theater, baths, and agora. This afternoon, we drive inland to Bezirgan, a traditional farming village in a lovely rural valley, for lunch prepared by a family in their home. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Turkish hospitality and get a glimpse into village life. A scenic drive brings us to Kas, a charming fishing village with a distinctive Mediterranean flavor, with time to shop in the town. You may have dinner on board or choose to have dinner at one of the many good harbor restaurants. Your Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations. From the harbor at Kas, we cruise to the tranquility of nearby Bayindir Cove for overnight on board...BLD

## DAY 9

### KAS / APERLAE

Today we enjoy a relaxing day of snorkeling, kayaking, and swimming. From Kas, our Turkish yacht heads to the ancient city of Aperlae to snorkel above ruins long buried by the sea. Thousands of amphora pottery shards litter the bottom and the original harbor walls and foundation tiles are evident. Aperlae was a settlement famous for the export of the purple pigment extracted from the Murex snails found here in Roman times. The submerged ruins were discovered by an American couple on a sailing voyage in the 1970s and were surveyed in the 1990s by a team from Denver University. After breakfast and snorkeling, we have the option for a short and easy 30-minute hike across the neck of the peninsula. Our gulet will have gone around and anchored in a quiet cove to meet us, and we'll relax with a drink in a seaside restaurant with lovely views before getting back aboard the gulet for lunch. Afterwards we find a quiet bay and enjoy a leisurely afternoon of kayaking, swimming, snorkeling, and other relaxing activities. Overnight on board...BLD

## DAY 10

### KEKOVA ISLAND / KALEKOY / MYRA / ARYÇANDA / FINIKE

We continue to Kekova Island to see the mysterious submerged remains of a Byzantine city that lie along the edge of the island. Our boat continues to the water-locked village of Kalekoy (the modern name for ancient Simena). A conspicuous castle with a small rock-cut Lycian-era theater and Crusader fortifications looms over this timeless village. We will walk up to the Crusader castle and enjoy stunning views of the area and later continue to hike on a trail that is part of the popular Lycian Trail to Gokkaya Bay (the trail is level, once down from the castle). After lunch on board, a short sail brings us to Andriace, the ancient harbor for Myra. From here we take a motor launch to shore and meet our van, which takes us to the Lycian city of Myra, where we find some of the finest examples of Lycian funerary architecture set high on the hillsides. There is also a vast Roman amphitheater built into the cliff face with many of its carved friezes and cavernous tunnels (paradoi) intact. We visit the Church of St. Nicholas, known as the patron saint of children and sailors. Born about 300 AD, St. Nicholas is surrounded by legends, particularly of the miracles he performed in his lifetime that left him identified as Santa Claus, or Father Christmas. We then drive the scenic coastal route to Finike and beyond into the mountains. We explore the superb yet less visited ruins of Arycanda, with its extensive remains of an agora, theater, stadium, ancient baths, and





# Itinerary (Eastbound cont'd)

gymnasiums—all perched on a hillside in an alpine setting shaded under pines, with beautiful views down to the sea and toward the surrounding mountains. Archaeologist and author George Bean compared Arycanda favorably to Delphi, not just because of the state of stunning ruins but also for the sense of privacy and lack of crowds. A short drive down the highway from Arycanda brings us to a trout farm for a delicious dinner. After dinner we return to Finike for the night. This small town is surrounded by citrus plantations, tea gardens, and hidden rocky bays. In this peaceful setting, we can try to imagine that this was the site of the Battle of the Masts in 655 AD, the first major naval victory of the Muslim Arabs over the Byzantines. Overnight on board...  
BLD



## DAY 11

### OLYMPUS / CHIMAERA / PORTO GENOVESE

This morning's sail brings us across the Bay of Finike to Cape Gelidonya, the southernmost point of our voyage. The coastline from here to Olympus is among the wildest and most beautiful on the Turquoise Coast, undisturbed by any roads or settlements. We may stop at a wilderness cove to kayak or a swim en route to Olympus. Once there, we take a motor launch to the beautiful white-pebble beach lined with pine trees and pink oleander to start our excursion to the ruins.

The site is buried in a forest of bay laurel trees and has a micro-climate of its own, with fresh water springs gushing along the trail. A monumental gateway to the ruined Temple of Hephaistos, a Byzantine aqueduct, baths, tombs, and a mosaic-clad church complex are all here. Following lunch and a swim, this afternoon we board our van for a short ride to the trailhead for our 1.5-hour hike up a rocky path to Chimaera (or Chimera). In Greek legend (and as mentioned in Book 6 of Homer's Iliad), Chimaera was a fire-breathing female monster with a lion's head, a goat's body, and a serpent's tail. Bellerophon, a handsome young Lycian hero flying on his winged horse, Pegasus, slew Chimaera with his arrows and buried the monster in boulders he hurled from above. The dozen flames bursting from the ground at this sacred site mark the site where the monster fell. We return to our gulet and sail a short distance to Porto Genovese, a beautiful wild cove, for our overnight anchorage with views of Mt. Olympus. Zoroastrian corsairs in the 1st century used this cove as headquarters as they competed for dominance against Christianity...BLD

## DAY 12

### MADEN COVE / PHASELIS

We sail to Maden Cove for a relaxing morning of swimming, enjoy lunch on board, then sail on to Phaselis. This ancient city is a truly romantic place, set at the foot of Mt. Olympus on a Damascus pine-studded peninsula and surrounded by three beautiful coves. The abundance of timber, a highly sought commodity in the Levant, and the fact that it offered a safe anchorage regardless of wind direction due to its three coves facing different directions, made Phaselis an ideal site. It was purchased from a shepherd and turned into a trade colony by Rhodian sea merchants. Since money did not exist in the 7th century BC when it was first established, the land was purchased for a quantity



of dried fish. It is believed that Alexander the Great arrived here from sea, was given citizenship, and then persuaded to start his campaign against the Psidians of Termessos who had been ransacking Phaselitan territory. An optional two-hour, round-trip coastal hike through the forest offering beautiful views brings us to Alacasu Cove and back, where we enjoy our final dinner on board...BLD

Hiking Details: 2 hours

#### DAY 13

#### TERMESSOS / ANTALYA / ISTANBUL

After breakfast and good-byes to our captain and crew, we drive up to the immense Pisidian acropolis of Termessos, set high in a densely wooded, mountainous area. The impregnable walls and high peaks that surround this city so daunted Alexander the Great when he came through in 333 BC that he decided to just pass on by. We hike to the vast remains of the magnificent theater, agora, gymnasium, and odeon that lie in a jumble of massive carved stones. Farther along the valley, we find a series of carved sarcophagi in the vast necropolis. We then head to Antalya, a principal resort of the Mediterranean with a majestic coastline of beaches and rocky coves and a backdrop of the towering Taurus Mountains. Since its founding in the 2nd century BC by Attalus II, a king of Pergamon, Antalya has had a vibrant history. Romans subsequently occupied the city, then later the Selçuks, who built impressive mosques and minarets with elaborate tile decorations, marble pools, and stone carvings. After our festive Farewell Lunch in a local restaurant, we visit the city's exquisite Archaeological Museum and, time permitting, walk through Antalya's city gate (Hadrian's Gate), a stately structure of white marble constructed in honor of the Emperor Hadrian's visit in 130 AD. In the late afternoon, we fly to Istanbul and transfer to our hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening...BL

Hiking Details: 2.5 hours

#### DAY 14

#### DEPART

Transfer to the airport for departing flights or join one of our trip extensions. We recommend spending extra time in Istanbul to explore this fascinating city...B

Itinerary note: This is a representative itinerary. Our actual day-to-day itinerary will be flexible, and at the discretion of our captain and trip leader, to allow for local conditions and the particular interests of the group. This is an eastbound itinerary. Some departures may follow a westbound direction. Due to the number of sites visited on this trip, we most often motor between locations rather than putting up the sails. We try to do some sailing on each trip. However, this is primarily a cruise on a motor-sailboat and not a sailing trip.



“Best holiday ever. We saw and experienced more than we could have dreamed possible. We ran out of superlatives on the second day!”

*Lee T., Abbotsford, BC*



## WESTBOUND ITINERARY



“Great combination of interesting sites, education, activities, swimming, comfortable accommodations, great fresh food, and a nice small group with a terrific leader. I’m hooked and planning on traveling with WT again. I like your style and small-group trips.”

*Madeleine G., Bellevue, WA*

### DAY 1 ISTANBUL

Upon arrival in Istanbul, you will be met and transferred to the hotel (please plan to arrive in Istanbul by 1:30 pm). The one-hour drive brings us to our hotel located in The Old City, or Stamboul as it is sometimes known. This is the heart of the Ottoman and Byzantine worlds and a great district to explore on foot. Many of its most famous sights are within easy walking distance of one another. After checking into our hotel, we set out to explore the restored Basilica Cistern, an underground chamber built by Justinian in AD 532 for storing the imperial water supply. We descend into the cistern and walk along platforms above reflecting pools, where soft lighting illuminates the hundreds of carved Doric, Ionian, and Corinthian columns that support the cistern roof. Heading to the Hippodrome, the center of life in Istanbul for more than 1,400 years, we can easily imagine the political intrigues that took place here as chariot teams vied for victory while racing around the rectangular arena (the various teams had political ties). We also visit Sultan Ahmet Camii, or the Blue Mosque, with slender minarets visible for miles around. It is known as the Blue Mosque for its blue-themed interior, replete with panels of floral-motif tiles (20,000 of them) and graceful arabesque stenciling. We’ll walk to the Golden Horn to start our late afternoon sunset cruise on a private boat along the European and Asiatic shores of the Bosphorus to see yalis (waterside mansions) and the classic silhouette of Istanbul’s skyline, then stop in for our Welcome Dinner in a seafood restaurant along the Bosphorus waterfront. Overnight at Hotel Levni in the heart of Istanbul’s fascinating walking district...D  
Please note: in case of inclement weather, the cruise will be moved to Day 2.

### DAY 2 ISTANBUL

Our guided morning and afternoon explorations in Istanbul include the magnificent Hagia Sophia, once the largest enclosed space in the world and the greatest church in Christendom. Set atop a hill, the domed basilica of this 6th century cathedral, the Church of Holy Wisdom, was the dominant feature of the city’s skyline until the 16th century. Memhet the Conqueror converted the Hagia Sophia into a mosque following the conquest of Constantinople in 1453, and Ataturk converted it into a museum in 1935. It has now been converted back to a Mosque; please be advised entry is not allowed for anyone with bare shoulders or shorts. We also visit the Topkapi Palace, heart of the Ottoman Empire and home of the sultans for four centuries. The palace, a marvelous imperial labyrinth set on the tip of a peninsula where the Golden Horn joins the Bosphorus, was originally constructed in the 15th century, but most of the buildings we see today date from the 18th century. Of particular fascination is the Harem, the set of “forbidden” apartments where the Sultan’s wives, concubines, and eunuchs lived. Topkapi is also the place to feast your eyes on the fabulous treasures of the sultans, from jewel-encrusted daggers to golden caskets to the 86-carat Spoonmakers Diamond. After lunch, we stroll



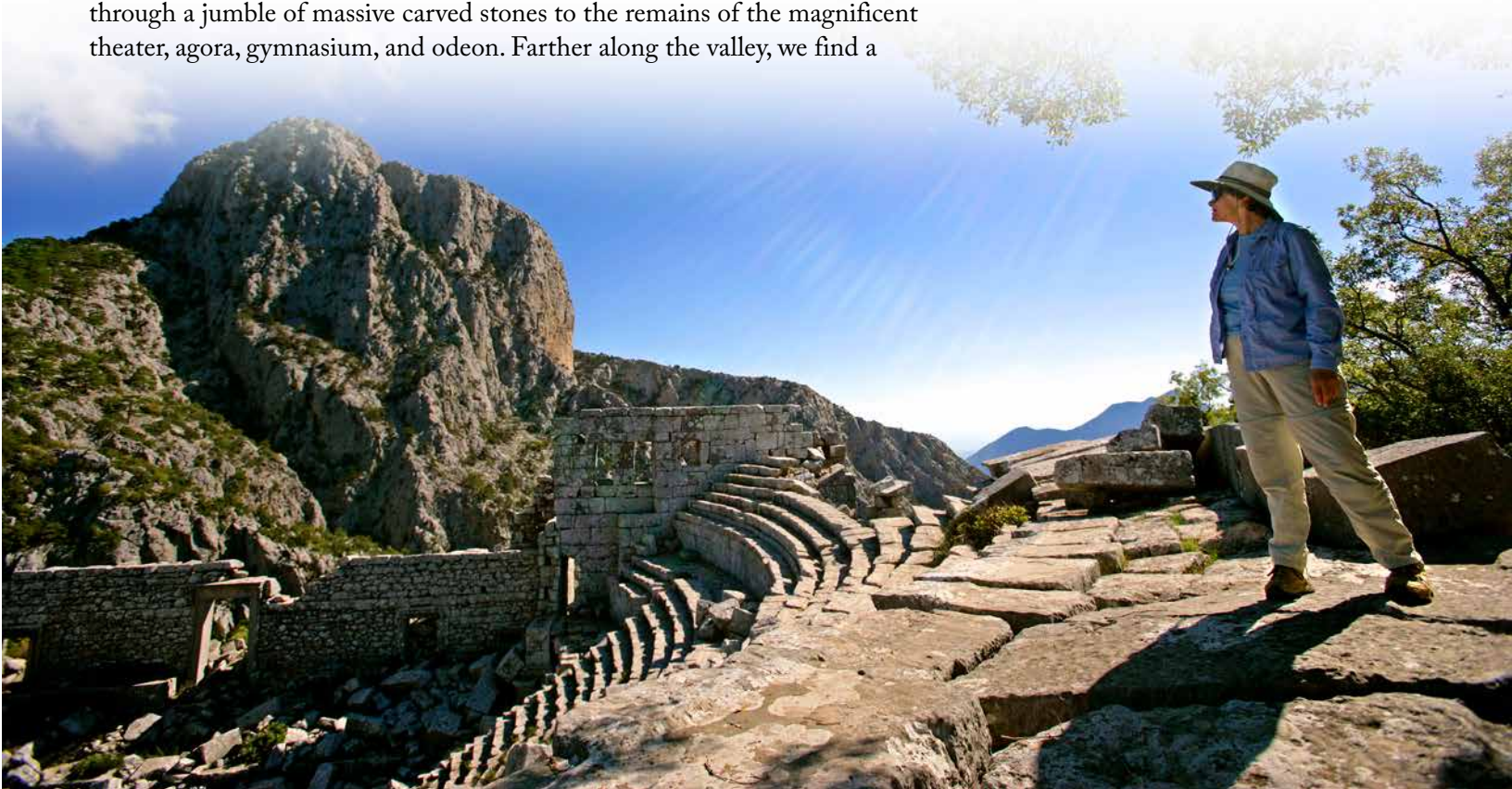
the labyrinthine alleyways of the Grand Bazaar and Covered Bazaar, the oldest and most famous markets in the world. We can watch artisans at work, peek through doorways to spy hidden treasures, and maybe try our hand at bargaining for a souvenir. Overnight at hotel...BLD

Please note that the sites we visit in Istanbul can be very busy at times. Because of this we have a flexible approach so we can deliver the best experience possible by adjusting the order of the visits on Days 1 and 2. We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to embrace a spirit of adventure during your trip to Istanbul and Turkey.

### DAY 3

#### ANTALYA / TERMESSOS

A morning flight brings us to Antalya, a principal Mediterranean resort with a majestic coastline of beaches and rocky coves and a backdrop of the towering Taurus Mountains. Since its founding in the 2nd century BC by Attalus II, a king of Pergamon, Antalya has had a vibrant history. Romans subsequently occupied the city, then later the Selçuks, who built impressive mosques and minarets with elaborate tile decorations, marble pools, and stone carvings. In the hills above Antalya, we drive up to the immense acropolis of Termessos, one of the most enchanting sites in western Asia Minor. Set high in a densely wooded and mountainous area, this ancient theater has marvelous views. The impregnable walls and high peaks that surround this city so daunted Alexander the Great when he came through in 333 BC that he decided to just pass on by. We hike beneath a canopy of holly oak, wild pear, and pines and through a jumble of massive carved stones to the remains of the magnificent theater, agora, gymnasium, and odeon. Farther along the valley, we find a



## Itinerary (Westbound cont'd)



*“WT never ceases to amaze. This trip was more than we expected, with the perfect mix of culture, fun, food and drink.”  
Gary F., Manhattan Beach, CA*

series of carved sarcophagi. We return to Antalya for lunch, then visit the city’s exquisite Archaeological Museum and, time permitting, walk through Antalya’s city gate (Hadrian’s Gate), a stately structure of white marble constructed in honor of the Emperor Hadrian’s visit in 130 AD. A scenic coastal drive brings us to Phaselis, where we board our traditional wooden gulet, meet our captain and crew, and spend the night moored in the cove...BLD

### DAY 4

PHASELIS / MADEN COVE/ CHIMAERA / OLYMPOS / PORTO GENOESE

Phaselis is truly a romantic place, set at the foot of Mt. Olympos on a Damascus pine-studded peninsula and surrounded by three beautiful coves. The abundance of timber, a highly sought commodity in the Levant, and the fact that it offered a safe anchorage regardless of wind direction due to its three coves facing different directions, made Phaselis an ideal site. It was purchased from a shepherd and turned into a trade colony by Rhodian sea merchants. Since money did not exist in the 7th century BC when it was first established, the land was purchased for a quantity of dried fish. It is believed that Alexander the Great arrived here from sea, was given citizenship, and then persuaded to start his campaign against the Psidians of Termessos who had been ransacking Phaselitan territory. Phaselis is also mentioned in the Bible (Leviticus), forbidding Christians from wearing the hair of their heads in a "sisoe," a hairstyle popular among Phaselitans. After exploring this beautiful ancient city, we sail to Maden Cove for lunch and a swim. In the afternoon, we board our van for a short ride to the trailhead for our 1.5-hour hike up a rocky path to the eternal fires of Chimaera (or Chimera). In Greek legend (and as mentioned in Book 6 of Homer’s Iliad), Chimaera was a fire-breathing female monster with a lion’s head, a goat’s body, and a serpent’s tail. Bellerophon, a handsome young Lycian hero flying on his winged horse, Pegasus, slew Chimaera with his arrows and buried the monsters with boulders he hurled from above. The dozen flames bursting from the ground at this sacred site today mark the site where the monster fell. Later, we return to beautiful white-pebble Cirali Beach, lined with pines and pink oleander, to continue our excursion to the Olympos ruins. This site is buried in a forest of bay laurel trees and has a micro-climate of its own, with fresh water springs gushing along the trail. Here we find a monumental gateway to the ruined Temple of Hephaistos, a Byzantine aqueduct, baths, tombs and a mosaic-clad church complex. We return to our gulet and sail a short distance to Porto Genovese, a beautiful wild cove, for our overnight anchorage with views of Mt. Olympos. Zoroastrian corsairs in the 1st century used this cove as headquarters as they competed for dominance against Christianity...BLD



## DAY 5

### FINIKE / ARYCANDA

The coastline from Olympos to Finike is among the wildest and most beautiful sections of the Turquoise Coast, undisturbed by any roads or settlements. We leave Porto Genovese and round Cape Gelidonya, one of the southernmost points on this trip. Weather permitting, we'll stop on the way in Suluada or a protected cove in Finike Bay. In this peaceful setting, we can try to imagine that this was the site of the Battle of the Masts in 655 AD, the first major naval victory of the Muslim Arabs over the Byzantines. Finike is a small town surrounded by citrus plantations, tea gardens, and hidden rocky bays. Once there, we head ashore and drive along narrow mountain roads to the starting point for our hike up to the superb ruins of Arycanda, complete with an agora, theater, stadium, ancient baths, and gymnasium—all perched on a hillside in an alpine setting with beautiful views down to the sea and toward the surrounding mountains. Archaeologist and author George Bean compared Arycanda favorably to Delphi, not just because of the state of stunning ruins but also for the sense of privacy and the lack of crowds. On the way back to the boat, we stop at a trout farm restaurant along the River Arycandus for a delicious country dinner. We then return to our gulet, awaiting us in the Finike marina...  
BLD

## DAY 6

### MYRA / GOKKAYA BAY / KALEKOY

A short sail brings us to Andriace, the ancient harbor for Myra. From here we take a motor launch to shore and meet a van to take us to the Lycian city of Myra, where we find some of the finest examples of Lycian funerary architecture set high on the hillsides. There is also a vast Roman amphitheater built into the cliff face with many of its carved friezes and cavernous tunnels intact. We visit the Church of St. Nicholas, known as the patron saint of children. Born about 300 AD, St. Nicholas is surrounded by legends, particularly of the miracles he performed in his lifetime which left him identified as Santa Claus, or Father Christmas. We rejoin our gulet and cruise to Gokkaya Bay in Kekova Sound for lunch and a swim. Later, we head out on a two-hour hike over an isthmus and across farmlands along village trails to the village of Kalekoy (the modern name for ancient Simena). This timeless village, accessible only by sea, is a highlight, with breathtaking views from the Crusader-era castle overlooking the Kekova Sound and Lycian tombs and 1,500-year-old olive trees decorating the flanks. We clamber around Lycian sarcophagi and on the small rock-cut theater and have a chance to visit with local villagers. Our gulet meets us here and we cruise alongside Kekova Island to see the mysterious submerged remains of a Byzantine city that lie along the edge of the island. We overnight moored in a wilderness cove off Kekova Island...BLD

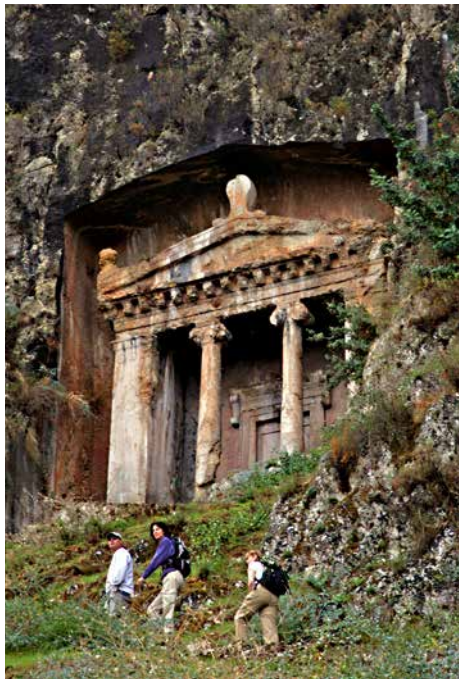


# Itinerary (Westbound cont'd)

## DAY 7

### APERLAE / KAS

We cruise to the ancient city of Aperlae to swim, snorkel, and kayak above ruins long buried by the sea. Aperlae was a Roman-era center for the production of purple pigment extracted from the murex snails that live here. Broken amphorae and thousands of pottery shards litter the sea bed here, and we can see the sunken harbor walls and foundation tiles. These submerged ruins were discovered by an American couple on a sailing voyage in the 1970s and was surveyed by a team from Denver University in the 1990s. Following lunch, we round Cape Uluburun and continue to Kas, a lovely harbor and fishing village with a distinctive Mediterranean flavor. Kas means “eyebrow” in Turkish, probably because of the shape of the bay it sits on. We stroll along the picturesque harbor and explore the Lycian rock tombs and the splendid ancient Greek theater overlooking the sea. Uzuncarsi, the cobbled market street of Kas, has many tastefully stocked shops for arts, crafts, jewelry, and textiles. Ottoman-style wooden houses with bougainvillea-clad balconies decorate the flanks of the street. The Hellenistic town of Antiphellus once stood here, and its splendidly preserved theater and temples remain. The Lycian rock tombs on the hillsides and the Greek isle of Megisti, a stone throw away over the sparkling Mediterranean, make a fine backdrop in Kas. This evening, you may choose to have dinner in one of the many good harbor restaurants (your Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations) or you may choose to have a quiet dinner on board the boat. Overnight on board in the harbor at Kas, or cruise to the tranquility of nearby Bayindir Cove...BLD



“This trip was fantastic. The boat was beautiful and the crew and their service first-rate. I heard that this is one of your most popular trips—now I know why.”

*Mary Beth P., Arlington, MA*

## DAY 8

### KALKAN / XANTHOS / PATARA

We sail on to Kalkan, a quaint town of traditional white-washed houses perched on a hill. Narrow winding streets lined with shops lead down to the harbor, where we anchor close off shore. From here we continue on to Xanthos, ancient capital of Lycia, virtually intact when British explorers arrived in 1838. Unfortunately, the British carted away many of the artifacts of Xanthos, now displayed at the British Museum. We explore the unique “Inscribed Pillar” with 250 lines of Lycian script, a language that stills remains mostly undeciphered. Two impressive pillar-tombs tower above the upper seats of the Xanthos theater. The Harpy Tomb got its name from reliefs of the winged figures around the top, which were originally thought to be harpies, female figures from Greek mythology who stole the daughters of King Pandareus to make them slaves of the Furies. Scholars now believe they are depictions of Sirens carrying away the souls of the dead to Hades. The other tomb, once bearing 6th century BC reliefs of wrestlers on a slab, confusingly also supports a 3rd century BC sarcophagus on its top, attesting to being re-used. The remains of an agora, basilica, monastery, and some Byzantine walls are also at this site. We then head to Patara, birthplace of St. Nicholas, famous for its long, isolated, sandy beach. We have some free time here for a delightful swim, or to explore the fine ruins of a Greco-Roman theater, baths, and agora. This afternoon we drive inland to Bezirgan, a traditional farming village in a lovely rural valley, for lunch prepared

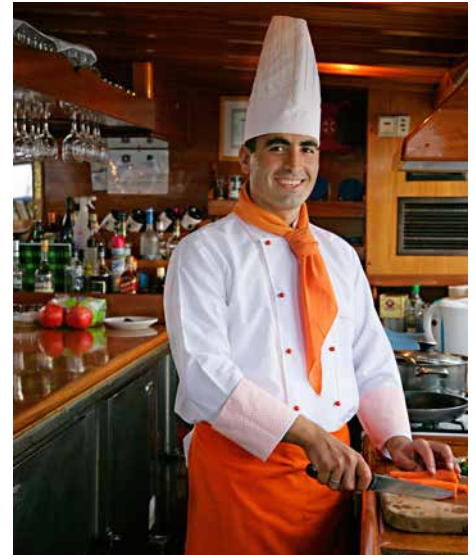


by a family in their home. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Turkish hospitality and get a glimpse into village life. We end the day with an optional 45-minute hike on a rock path to Firnaz Cove with great views of the turquoise waters below, passing through a secret Roman aqueduct en route to our gulet awaiting us there (or drive back to Kalkan)...BLD

## DAY 9

### GEMILER ISLAND / KAYA KOY / SOGUK BAY

With an early morning cruise rounding the wild Seven Capes, our gulet brings us to Gemiler Island. En route, and weather permitting, we may stop at Burguncuk Cove for a morning swim and breakfast. If it's not too crowded with party boats at Gemiler Island, we head ashore for a short hike up to the striking Byzantine ruins of a 4th century monastic society dedicated to St. Nicholas. The ruins are tucked amid olive trees and from the summit of the hill, there are stunning views of the cobalt-blue lagoon below. We have time for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking along the island before lunch. In the afternoon, we drive to Kaya Koy, an abandoned village that was originally home to around 3,000 Anatolian Greeks. The spoils of war and the "population exchanges" of the 1920s gave the inhabitants no choice but to relocate to mainland Greece. The site was reduced to an eerie ghost town following the mass exodus. After exploring the ruins, we hike back to our yacht, anchored in secluded Soguk Cove. The three-hour hike has some steep sections but is a very enjoyable outing with views of a fantastic seascape. The trail leads over terrain filled with aromas of wild-growing herbs including oregano, thyme, sage, and carob. Overnight on board in Soguk Bay...BLD



# Itinerary (Westbound cont'd)



## DAY 10

### AG LIMANI / BATIK HAMAM

We cruise across Fethiye Bay this morning to a beautiful cove called Ag Limani (“Harbor of Nets”). After a swim, we hike across a peninsula marked by the ruins of Lydae, an unexcavated site reached only by sea. Once a Lycian outpost with spiritual importance, it is today inhabited only by Yoruk nomads. We may visit with the nomads over some sage tea, or clamber on the remains of a temple dedicated to Apollo. There are also Byzantine cisterns and monumental temple-tombs to explore. Depending on the route, the hike takes 3-4 hours. At the end of our hike, we arrive at Cleopatra’s Sunken Baths in the southern reaches of Gocek Lagoon. This is also known as Batik Hamam (“Sunken Bath” in Turkish). Our gulet cruises around from Ag Limani to pick us up here. Following a late lunch, we have time for relaxing or swimming. This area usually has reliable winds, and if so, we raise our sails and glide to a wilderness cove for our overnight anchorage. Overnight in a cove in Gocek Bay...BLD

## DAY 11

### DALYAN / KAUNOS / EKINCIK BAY

We cruise around the rough headland known as Disibilmez (“Never Seen a Female”) and arrive at Iztuzu, one of the few sandy beaches along the Turquoise Coast. Here we head by local boat through the reedy passages of the Dalyan River to visit Kaunos, an ancient harbor city with Greek temples, Roman baths, and a Byzantine church. The area is famous for its prolific birdlife and is one of the few remaining egg-laying areas for loggerhead turtles in the Mediterranean. We can try an optional soak in natural hot springs and sulphur mud baths, then wash off with a brisk plunge in the fresh waters of Lake Koycegiz. We return to the town of Dalyan for lunch at a restaurant overlooking the river, enjoying a beautiful view of the Carian rock tombs built into the slopes above the city. Our afternoon hike of about 3 hours brings us to Ekincik through pine forests and olive groves to a spot where we rendezvous with our gulet. Overnight on board in Ekincik Bay...BLD



## DAY 12

### EPHESUS / KUSADASI

We disembark, bid goodbye to our captain and crew, and drive toward Kusadasi, our base for visiting Ephesus. After lunch, we explore Ephesus, declared capital of Roman Asia by Emperor Augustus, who turned it into a major trading and banking metropolis. In this remarkably well-preserved Roman city, where St. Paul preached, we walk among finely restored theaters and homes, stroll the marble-paved Arcadian way, and feel transported back to Roman times. The city’s magnificently restored ruins include a library, temples, agoras, baths, brothels, marble streets, and amphitheaters. Under Roman rule, Ephesus allowed religious freedom for its inhabitants, and the result was a wonderful mixture of cultures. Our walking tour brings us an unforgettable glimpse into the Roman world. While in Ephesus, we also visit the Terrace Houses. These recently excavated houses where wealthy Romans lived offer a fascinating



insight to the daily lives of their inhabitants as we walk through frescoed rooms and kitchens, private baths, and atriums. Upon exiting Ephesus, we head to the site of the great Temple of Artemis, the largest Greek temple ever built. It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, but only one column now remains of the original temple. We continue to Kusadasi for the night with overnight and dinner at our seaside hotel set on a peninsula overlooking the Aegean...BLD

**DAY 13**  
**EPHESUS MUSEUM / HOUSE OF MARY / SIRINCE / ISTANBUL**

We visit the impressive Ephesus Museum, where treasures of unearthed artifacts, marble statuary, and gladiatorial pieces are displayed. The statue of Artemis (Cybele), the mother goddess and principal deity of the city, is especially noteworthy. After our festive Farewell Lunch in the charming town of Sirince, with its Tuscan feel and famous wine and olive oil, we'll have time to visit a weaving cooperative for a entertaining, hands-on, and educational demonstration of the local art (with options to shop, of course!). Those who may not be interested in weavings can take a short drive into the forested hills above Ephesus to visit the House of the Virgin Mary, a Christian shrine believed to be Mary's final dwelling. In the early afternoon, we transfer to the Izmir airport and fly to Istanbul. Dinner on your own. Overnight at hotel...BL

**DAY 14**  
**DEPART**

Transfer to the airport for departing flights...B

Itinerary note: This is a representative itinerary. Our actual day-to-day itinerary will be flexible, and at the discretion of our captain and trip leader, to allow for local conditions and the particular interests of the group. This is a westbound itinerary. Some departures may follow an eastbound direction. Due to the number of sites visited on this trip, we most often motor between locations rather than putting up the sails. We try to do some sailing on each trip. However, this is primarily a cruise on a motor-sailboat and not a sailing trip.



“The hiking was incredible, the food was out of this world, and the variety of activities and locations made for a first-rate trip. Life on the boat was wonderful!”

*Elizabeth F., Aptos, CA*



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2025**

\$7,695 (9-11 members)

\$7,995 (5-8 members)

\$9,295 (4 members)

Single supplement: \$485 (Hotel only)

Single supplement: \$2,065 (boat only)

Internal airfare: \$410 (subject to change)

*Please call for future years' pricing*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels/shared yacht cabins
- All meals included except 2 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of wine or beer at Farewell Dinner
- Yacht staff
- Entrances to museums and sites
- Airport arrival transfers and departure transfers on Day 14

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal flights, transfers for independent arrival or departure, or to/from any airport other than Istanbul Ataturk, airport departure taxes, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, any additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, passports, visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

## DEPOSIT, TRANSFER, AND CANCELLATION FEES

As indicated in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel catalog, all tours involving yacht charters are subject to deposit requirements and cancellation penalties which differ from standard catalog departures.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

150 days prior to departure: 50%

90 days prior to departure: Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$600 per person

61-120 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

60 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: [www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)



# Arrival & Departure

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Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Istanbul, Turkey

**Suggested Airport:** Istanbul Airport (IST)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, by 12:00 pm

**Meeting Place:** You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel Levni in Istanbul at 1:30 pm on Day 1 for our half-day tour followed by our Welcome Dinner and orientation.

A complimentary transfer is provided from the Istanbul Airport to the Hotel Levni for all trip members arriving on Day 1. If you are arriving on a different day, a transfer can be arranged at additional cost. Your Trip Leader or a WT representative will meet you outside the customs area at Gate 8 and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign. Note that the Istanbul airport can be quite hectic. If you do not see our representative right away, please stay in one place outside the customs processing area so he or she can find you.

## DEPARTURE

Istanbul, Turkey

**Suggested Airport:** Istanbul Airport (IST)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 14, anytime

A complimentary transfer will be provided from the hotel to the Istanbul Airport for departing flights on Day 14. If you are departing on a different day, a transfer can be

arranged at additional cost.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Turkey.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office.** Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers.

## INTERNAL FLIGHTS

The internal air tickets for the trip will be issued in Turkey and handled by your Trip Leader, who will facilitate check-in for all domestic flights.

# Inside Istanbul Extension



We are delighted to offer this special, in-depth guided exploration of Istanbul that visits intriguing sites not seen on our trip's one-day Istanbul visit. Set astride both land and sea, Istanbul is truly the bridge between Asia and Europe and it's a wonderfully walkable city full of delights. We highly recommend extending your time in this fascinating city.

## PRE-TRIP ITINERARY

### DAY 1

#### ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL

You will be met upon arrival at Istanbul airport and transferred to your hotel. Meals are on your own today. Overnight at Hotel Levni.

### DAY 2

#### PRINCE'S ISLANDS

Enjoy a scenic ferry ride to the Prince's Islands, an archipelago in the Sea of Marmara just off the Asian coast of Istanbul. These islands have always been considered one of the most picturesque spots of Istanbul. In the 19th century, grand Ottoman mansions were built here, complete with lovely gardens. Much of the beauty and romance of that time still survives today. Explore Prinkipo (Buyukada), the largest of the islands, by circling its coastline by electric carriage—gasoline powered vehicles are not allowed on this lovely island. Your ride takes you to the wilder and less populated part of the island, through forests of age-old pine trees and alongside seaside cliffs. Lunch is at one of the famous fish restaurants along Prinkipo's seaside. After lunch, walk up to the monastery of St. George on Yucetepe Hill, perhaps lingering to taste some of the local wine produced here. Return to Istanbul on an early afternoon ferry. Later this afternoon, we can arrange an optional visit to the Turkish Hamam Bath for a traditional bathing experience. These historic baths are near your hotel, so those who do not wish to attend may return to the hotel. (The cost of the bath is not included—approximately \$30 per person.) Dinner is on your own, overnight at Hotel Levni...BL



## DAY 3

### PERA DISTRICT

Ride the streetcar to the Galata Bridge, then take the “Tunel,” Istanbul’s underground metro, for a quick one-stop ride to the Pera District. Walk over to the Galata Tower, a 14th century Genoese monument that offers breathtaking views of all of Istanbul and its shores. Stop in for a visit to the Calligraphy Museum that doubles as the local Convent of Whirling Dervishes. The Pera District is the new and fashionable part of “old Stamboul.” This is where the embassies are located and where we see the real “Stamboullou” locals promenade. Walk along Istiklal Avenue, a pedestrian street lined not only with embassies and churches but also with smart cafes, *patisseries*, great restaurants, and interesting shops in interior passageways, and stroll through the Flower Passage and Fish Market. After lunch at one of the many great restaurants in Istanbul, visit the sumptuous Dolmabahce Palace on the Bosphorus, the final residence of the Sultans, or the Maritime Museum, one of Istanbul’s most interesting little museums, where among other things are palatial Ottoman *caiques* (private boats once used by the sultans). Dinner is on your own. Overnight at Hotel Levni...BL

### ITINERARY-IN-BRIEF FOR POST-TRIP EXTENSION

Day 1: Explore Prince’s Islands (same as Day 2 of previous itinerary).

Day 2: Pera District (same as Day 3 of previous itinerary).

Day 3: Depart Istanbul

### 2025 INSIDE ISTANBUL TRIP COST

*Pre-Trip (3 nights hotel in Istanbul)*

From \$1,495 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: from \$2,495

Single supplement: \$415 (for groups of 3 or more)

*Post-Trip (2 nights hotel in Istanbul)*

From \$1,395 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: from \$2,195

Single supplement: \$345 (for groups of 3 or more)

**Extension Cost Includes:** Same private guide throughout, all hotel accommodations, arrival/departure airport transfer, meals as noted, entrances to museums and sites as noted, bottled drinking water, ground and ferry transportation.

**Does Not Include:** Any activities described as optional (Turkish Hamam Bath), meals not specified (BLD) in this itinerary, beverages at restaurants or hotels, customary gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).



# Cappadocia Extension



In the interior heartland of Turkey lies Cappadocia, renowned for its natural and cultural wonders, including surreal, eroded volcanic landscapes of fairy-chimney tufa formations, hidden rock-cut cave churches with amazing frescoes, and underground cities where Byzantine-era villagers and monks sought refuge for months at a time during times of peril. Explore and hike in this magical landscape, visit cave churches, and underground cities and enjoy welcoming villages with unique traditional art forms, from pottery to weaving. Cappadocia maintains its magic of natural history together with a traditional lifestyle, making this extension a wonderful addition to our Turquoise Coast trips. The following itinerary is for a post-trip extension.

## DAY 1

### ISTANBUL / KAYSERI / CAPPADOCIA

Morning transfer to the Istanbul airport for the flight to Kayseri. On arrival, meet your private guide and van at the airport for the 1.5-hour drive to Uchisar, in Cappadocia. Views of Mt. Erciyes, the 12,000-foot volcano responsible for forming the remarkable landscape of Cappadocia, are ever present on the drive. Once we check into our hotel and enjoy a traditional lunch, we start our explorations. From Kalealti in lower Uchisar, our 1.5-hour hike brings us to the old village of Uchisar, then continues to Avcilar Village and Goreme via the Pigeon Valley. Here we visit the Goreme Outdoor Museum, including a special visit to the Karanlik (Dark) Church, which contains some of the finest frescoes in Cappadocia. Dinner and overnight at Kale Konak Cave Hotel...BLD

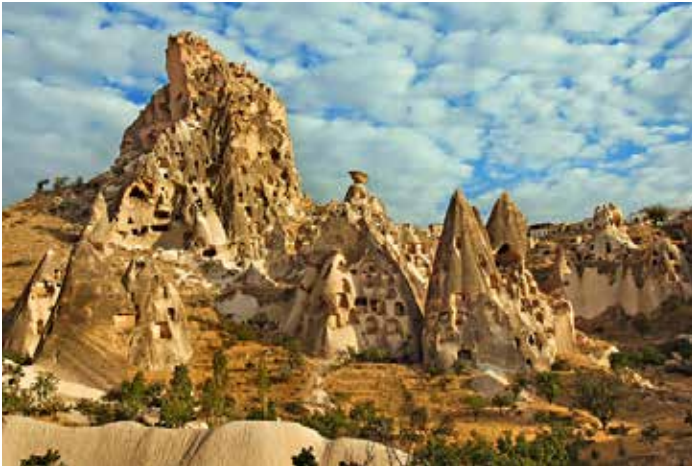


## DAY 2

### CAPPADOCIA / PASABAG OR ZELVE / AVANOS

At dawn this morning (or on the following morning), you have the option of participating in a thrilling hot air balloon ride (at additional cost—if interested, please contact us). After breakfast, we continue our exploration of Cappadocia with a 3-hour hike through a remote canyon with a magnificent lunar landscape complete with hidden rock-carved churches adorned with beautiful frescoes. We walk along small vineyards and apricot orchards amidst wonderful views of “fairy chimneys” and witness ruined monastic settlements. Reaching picturesque Cavusin Village, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then visit Pasabag (or Zelve) and Avanos. In Avanos we recommend a visit to a potter’s cave workshop for a hands-on demonstration of this age-old local art as we sip some delightful Cappadocian wine. Tonight you will attend a whirling dervish “Sema” ceremony at the original 12th century Seljuk caravanserai of Saruhan. This dance of the whirling dervishes is inspired by Rumi, the mystic poet, and is part of Turkish culture. Dinner and overnight at Kale Konak Cave Hotel...BLD





### DAY 3

#### CAPPADOCIA / KAYMAKLI OR DERINKUYU

A morning drive of 45 minutes brings us to the underground cities of Derinkuyu and Kaymakli, fascinating subterranean settlements dating back 4,000 years and reaching 12 stories deep. When invading armies swept across the Anatolian plain, people living in the region sought refuge by ingeniously building a maze of multi-level cities underground, complete with ventilation shafts and wells that were undetectable from the exterior. After lunch, we can take an optional 2.5-hour hike from Uchisar down Bagli Dere Valley (Valley of Spears), witnessing strange and fanciful formations near the far end. A shorter version of this hike starts at the lower end of the canyon and allows you leisure time in the afternoon for some great shopping opportunities for weavings, rugs, pottery, and polished onyx carvings. Dinner and overnight at Kale Konak Cave Hotel...BLD

### DAY 4

#### ISTANBUL

Morning transfer of 1.5 hours to the airport at Kayseri for the flight to Istanbul. You will be met and transferred to your hotel, with the remainder of the day free to explore on your own in Istanbul. Overnight at Hotel Levni or similar...B

### DAY 5

#### DEPART

Transfer to Istanbul airport for departure flights...B

### ITINERARY-IN-BRIEF FOR PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

Day 1: Arrive in Istanbul and transfer to Hotel Levni.

Day 2: Fly to Kayseri and drive to Uchisar in Cappadocia (same as Day 1 of previous itinerary).

Day 3: Morning hike, afternoon visit to Zelve and Avanos (same as Day 2 of previous itinerary).

Day 4: Visit Kaymakli or Derinkuyu (same as Day 3 of previous itinerary).

Day 5: Morning transfer to the airport at Kayseri for the flight to Istanbul. Transfer to Hotel Levni and join the Turquoise Coast group for the welcome dinner (Day 1 of regular trip)...BD

### 2025 CAPPADOCIA EXTENSION LAND COST

From \$1,995 per person, double occupancy

Solo Traveler: from \$2,795

Single supplement: \$375 (for groups of 3 or more)

Internal airfare: \$395 (subject to change)

**Extension Cost Includes:** Same private guide throughout extension, all hotel accommodations, meals as noted, airport transfers, entrances to museums and sites as noted, bottled drinking water throughout, ground transportation.

**Does Not Include:** Meals not specified (BLD) in this itinerary, beverages at restaurants or hotels, customary gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Note: While this is our proposed itinerary, it can be modified to accommodate guests' specific needs.

# Accommodations (Eastbound)

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## HOTEL LEVNI

*Istanbul, Turkey*

*Days 1 to 2 (2 nights)*

This hotel's location could not be better—it's within close walking distance to all the major sights (you can see the outer walls of the Topkapi Palace from the hotel's front door). Guest rooms are well appointed, with comfortable beds and modern furnishings, and there is a Turkish bath, heated indoor pool, and fitness center on site. The service here is exceptional—the friendly and helpful staff goes the extra mile to make you feel welcome.



## CHARISMA HOTEL

*Kusadasi, Turkey*

*Day 3 (1 night)*

The Charisma is set right on the beach, with ocean-swimming access from a private dock as well as a huge swimming pool and open-air restaurant facing the water. Spacious guest rooms have a sea view and a balcony for watching sunset over the Aegean.

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## LODGING (WESTBOUND)

Days 1-2, 13: Hotel Levni

Days 3-11: Traditional gulet

Day 12: Charisma Hotel

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *The Turquoise Coast* webpage and click on "Accommodations."



# The Gulet

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In the Turquoise Coast, we use of the following yacht based on group size:

## TRADITIONAL GULET CAVURALI (FOR 6 OR LESS MEMBERS)

The Cavurali, a classic 65-foot, single-masted yacht with beautiful handmade teak hull and decks that is ideal for a journey with friends or family. (Note—for groups of nine people or more, we charter a larger gulet. Please call us for details.) Smaller and more intimate than the traditional wooden motor-sailers used on our group departures, the Cavurali features four comfortable cabins with beautiful mahogany paneling and private bathrooms (two cabins have single beds and two have double beds, each with comfortable mattress toppers). Linens and towels are provided, including beach towels for swimming. We suggest you pack light because bunk and luggage space aboard is limited.



Spacious shaded aft, bow, and fore decks with chaises and floor cushions provide comfortable outdoor dining and lounging. Full air conditioning is available as an option, but the Cavurali's natural ventilation is usually sufficient even during hot mid-summer days (many trip members enjoy sleeping out on the deck under the stars for fresh air, as the locals do).



Four ocean kayaks (three single, one double) are available on board for exploring secluded coves and marine caves. A sailboard is also provided. To maximize time for exploration, we normally proceed under motor power. When conditions permit, and at the captain's discretion, sails will be raised. The Cavurali has a crew of three.

This is not a luxury cruise aboard a big cruise ship, but it's easy to adjust to yacht life, and we think you'll find this to be one of the most pleasant and relaxing journeys imaginable.



## TRADITIONAL GULET (FOR 7-11 MEMBERS)

The yachts we charter are traditional wooden motor-sailers called gulets, especially designed for cruising this beautiful coastline. They are typically 90 feet in length with a 21-foot beam, twin masted, and feature teak hulls and decks and mahogany interiors. There are six double cabins, each with private toilet and shower. The food prepared and served on board features many local specialties, including fresh-caught seafood. To maximize time for exploration, we normally proceed under motor power. When conditions permit, and at the captain's discretion, sails will be raised. Kayaks and snorkeling equipment are available to use. The gulets feature a crew of four, including the captain.



# Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on "Trip Leaders": [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/turkey-turquoise-coast-cruise-tour/](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/turkey-turquoise-coast-cruise-tour/)



## MEHMET KOÇ

Now a 30-year veteran leader of our Turquoise Coast journey by traditional gulet, Mehmet Koc's passion for archaeology and history brings our guests a deep connection to this mesmerizing region. As one guest put it, "He's in a league of his own. His passion, knowledge, and love of the land (and people) is truly apparent. I feel like I learned so much from him." Born in Istanbul, Mehmet has a degree in Travel and Tourism as well as Economics. He loves bringing guests to history-rich areas of his homeland, especially remote sites like Termessos and Arycanda, with their dramatic mountain settings, and also wants guests to discover local life as he introduces them to contemporary Turkiye and its current topics. When not guiding, Mehmet enjoys reading up on various eras of history and archaeology and stays active with local hiking and biking.



## ERSIN OZDEMIR

After completing his degree in Archaeology at the University of Selcuk, Ersin taught high school for three years before finding his true calling as a tour guide. He has since spent nearly three decades as a professional tour guide in both Turkey and other countries. In addition to extensive reading, he has broadened his knowledge by attending seminars in the flora and fauna of Turkey as well as recent archaeological discoveries. "Guiding is my passion," he says, "allowing me to share the culture, nature, and history of my native country with guests coming from all over the world."



## SAYAT TURABIK

Sayat Turabik, born in Istanbul, is an Armenian Turk who lives on one of the tranquil Prince's Islands, just a ferry ride down the Bosphorus from Istanbul. Sayat headed to the University of Wolverhampton in England for college, earning his degree in business and information technology then going to Germany to study German language at the Goethe Institute. He spent nearly a year traveling in Latin America, teaching English to local children, and then returned to Turkey to begin a career as a tour leader. "Being a professional guide gives me a chance to talk about my beloved country and its people, and at the same time introduces me to other people and cultures. Hearing trip members say "I love this country" is my biggest reward." Sayat speaks English, Spanish, and German and loves photography, volleyball, and off-the-beaten-path hikes in Turkey's mountains.



## YUNUS ÖZDEMİR

Combining his vast knowledge of archaeology with a passion for leading trips, Yunus has guided visitors from many countries around the world since 2003. After leading tours on Turkey's Lycian Way, he created and realized the idea of a long-distance walking route in the Caria region in southwestern Turkey. Yunus received a degree in Classical Archaeology from Akdeniz University in 2005 and has a master's degree in Cultural Heritage. For the past six years, he has lectured at Cappadocia University. He lives in Cappadocia with his wife and two children.



# Trip Details

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## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated Level 2+, Easy to Moderate. It is a relaxed cruising adventure, with hikes that should be “easy-to-moderate” for the average active traveler. The hikes are a focus of the trip, often bringing us to small villages or off-the-beaten-path ruins accessible only on foot, although all hikes are optional, should you prefer to relax on board the yacht. We usually have seven hikes during the trip, 2-4 hours each, all with some uphill and downhill walking. Several hikes are of moderate difficulty, following coastal paths that can be steep and rocky. Even if you choose not to participate in the optional hikes, most visits to archaeological sites require walking or hiking on sometimes rocky, uneven paths. For your enjoyment of the trip, you should be a fit walker and bring lightweight hiking boots. Having at least one hiking pole can be very helpful on the hikes as well.

Being able to swim is important on any boating trip, and the warm waters make this an ideal trip for those who like to swim and snorkel. While there is some snorkeling equipment available on board, we cannot guarantee the quality and the fit of the equipment. We highly recommend bringing your own snorkel and mask to assure a proper fit. To get on and off the boat, there is a gradual 45-degree incline on the suspended sea ladder that allows easy access. The dinghy can take up to five guests at a time and has an outboard engine. To ensure an enjoyable adventure in Turkey, you should make a special effort to be in good physical condition by engaging in a regular exercise regimen before the trip.

For trips with seven group members or fewer, the yacht we use is the Cavurali, a classic 65-foot, single-masted yacht with beautiful handmade teak hull and decks that is ideal for this type of journey. The Cavurali features four comfortable cabins with beautiful mahogany paneling and private bathrooms (two cabins have single beds and two have double beds). All cabins have en suite facilities, including a shower stall, and there are marine windows that open. Linens and towels are provided, including beach towels for swimming. We suggest you pack light because bunk and luggage space aboard is limited. There are 220-volt electrical outlets in the bedroom and bathroom (you will need a plug adaptor with two round prongs), plus an outlet in the salon that supplies power around the clock for charging batteries; it's a useful source when the generators

are not on. For trips with more than seven group members, a larger six-cabin yacht is used. They are generally about 90 feet in length with a 21-foot beam and are similar to the Cavurali in that they feature teak hulls and decks and mahogany interiors. All cabins have a private toilet and shower.

## WEATHER

The climate along the Turquoise Coast is predominantly Mediterranean. Summers are hot and usually dry as the rainy season along the coast is November to March. It is generally quite warm even during rain showers. Normally there is not much wind, and the afternoon breezes arrive regularly to cool off the coastline. May and October departures may be cooler and we suggest bringing warmer clothing for these dates.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The spacious gulets have shaded aft and fore decks with chaises provide comfortable outdoor dining and lounging. Full air conditioning is available as an option, but the Cavurali's natural ventilation is usually sufficient even during hot mid-summer days (many trip members enjoy sleeping out on the deck under the stars for fresh air, as the locals do).

Four ocean kayaks (three single, one double) are available on board for exploring secluded coves and marine caves. A sailboard is also provided. To maximize time for exploration, we normally proceed under motor power. When conditions permit, and at the captain's discretion, sails will be raised. The Cavurali has a crew of three.

This is not a luxury cruise aboard a big cruise ship, but it's easy to adjust to yacht life, and we think you'll find this to be one of the most pleasant and relaxing journeys imaginable.

## CUISINE

Meals on board have a wide variety of meats, fruits, and vegetables produced in Turkey and the bounty of fish in the Mediterranean, the Turks have developed a sumptuous and rich cuisine, influenced by its position as a cultural and geographical crossroads between Asia and Europe. We enjoy Turkish cuisine at its best aboard our yacht. In fact, for some trip members, meals on board become as much of a trip highlight as hiking and discovering ancient

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Istanbul	46/37	47/37	51/40	60/47	69/54	78/62	82/66	82/67	76/61	67/55	57/47	50/42
Antalya	58/41	58/42	63/45	70/51	77/58	86/66	92/71	92/71	88/65	79/57	68/50	60/44
Izmir	53/39	54/40	60/44	68/50	77/57	87/64	91/68	90/67	84/61	74/55	63/47	55/42
Rainfall - Inches												
Istanbul	3.7	2.8	2.3	1.7	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	2.1	3.5	4
Antalya	9.8	6.7	3.8	1.7	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	2.6	4.6	10
Izmir	5.2	3.9	3.0	1.7	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.5	3.6	5.9

ruins! Breakfasts include fresh yogurt, local honey, fresh-baked breads, eggs, and Turkish breakfast items such as feta cheese, olives, and sun-ripened tomatoes and cucumbers. Lunches and dinners offer an array of appetizers, a variety of salads and vegetable dishes (eggplant in olive oil is a favorite), plus a main entree of lamb, beef, chicken, or fish, grilled, baked, or prepared in other styles. Main dishes are often served with side dishes such as rice pilaf seasoned with currents or pine nuts. Some days, our crew fishes and serves us their “catch of the day.” Desserts include fresh fruits or assorted local pastries such as baklava (nuts and honey in puff pastry). Thanks to the balmy Mediterranean climate, we enjoy our meals in the open air of the yacht’s deck, sitting around a large table under a shade awning, with the fragrant breezes blowing. On occasion, we eat a lunch or dinner at a local town we are visiting. Wine, beer, and sodas are available for purchase. You can run a tab for your drinks and pay at the end of the cruise in Turkish Lira, Euros or US Dollars (credit cards are not accepted on the gulet). Complimentary drinking water, coffee, and tea are provided.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at [europa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:europa@wildernesstravel.com).

### REFERENCES

We’d be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren’t listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



# Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

Here's how it works:

## YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

## YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel insulated stainless steel water bottle by CamelBak and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$130 value).

## YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$140 value).

## YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

## FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

*Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.*

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST PLUS INSULATED CAMELBAK WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

# Travel Notes

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# Travel Notes

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## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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